

## Two Dozen Abused, Malnourished Iraqi Boys Rescued from Government-funded Orphanage

### 2-1 Inf. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD—U.S. and Iraqi Army Soldiers discovered an orphanage housing 24 severely malnourished and abused boys on June 10 in the Baghdad neighborhood of Fajr.

U.S. and Iraqi Army forces found 24 naked and abused boys, ages 3 to 15 years old, in a darkened room without any windows. Many of the children were tied to their beds and were

too weak to stand once released.

Nearby in a locked room, the Soldiers discovered a room full of food and clothing which could have been used to aid the children. Three women, claiming to be the caretakers, and two men, the orphanage director and a guard, were on site when the Soldiers arrived.

Members of the Fajr Neighborhood Advisory Council were notified by the Iraqi Army soldiers and escort-

ed to the orphanage to assist the boys. Paratroopers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, and a 492nd Civil Affairs Team also arrived at the orphanage with medics to treat the malnourished boys.

"The council members were crying at the site of the starving boys," stated Navy Lt. James Cook, a 492nd Civil Affairs Officer.

The NAC arranged for three

ambulances to take the boys to the Iskan Hospital for care.

In May, the boys were removed from the coed orphanage located in Atafiyah because it was believed the boys and girls should not live together, according to accounts from workers at the orphanage.

The council members made arrangements for the

See Rescued Page 3



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Briglin, 4-1 Inf. Div.)

### Aztecs in the Mist

Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company A, "Aztecs" 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment walk through the mist during a combat reconnaissance patrol in southeast Baghdad June 17. The 2-23 Inf., based out of Fort Lewis, Wash., are attached to the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. out of Fort Riley, Kan.

## Baghdad in Brief

### U.S., Iraqi Forces Team up to Foil Rocket Strike

2- 2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY**, Iraq – Soldiers with the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion, 4th Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, recovered a weapons cache June 20 in eastern Baghdad.

Responding to a tip, members of the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery and the Iraqi Soldiers found five 107-millimeter rockets, three fuses, and 23 rocket stands. Some of the rockets had been prepped for launch. The rockets were blown in place by an explosive ordnance disposal team.

“The find highlights the joint effort between U.S. and Iraqi forces to root out insurgents and clamp down on sectarian violence,” said Maj. Sean Ryan, a spokesperson for the brigade. “The surge of U.S. forces is complete and a fresh offensive was launched this week.”

## Tomahawk Soldiers Save a Life

4-1 Inf. Div. Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD** – Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers treated and stabilized a child who was severely dehydrated in Southern Baghdad June 19.

Faisal, a 2-year-old boy living in the Rashid District, was unresponsive with labored breathing when his mother brought him to a temporary checkpoint manned by Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment “Tomahawks.”

The troops immediately evacuated him to Forward Operating Base Falcon, where members of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division medical staff were able to treat and stabilize him for subsequent evacuation and attention at the US military’s Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad’s International Zone.

“He was a pretty sick kid,” said Sgt. Tracey Lyons, the medic and New York City native who was able to quickly get an IV into Faisal. “I thought he was deathly ill. I wasn’t really sure what to think at first.”

“He was lethargic, his pupils were fixed and he responded only to pain,” said Capt. Wesley Theurer, the attending physician from Providence, Utah.

He also reported that the child’s

mother said that Faisal had been sick for several days, and although he had been treated at a local clinic and given medicine for his condition, his symptoms worsened. As his condition deteriorated, she was prompted to seek assistance from the Tomahawk Soldiers stationed near her home. Their quick reaction was critical in the medical staff being able to turn things around for the youngster.

“Once we got fluids into him, he started perking up and making a real fuss which is a good sign,” Theurer said. “With children that young, you’d much rather have them yelling and carrying on than being floppy and unresponsive, which was how he looked when he came in.”

Theurer singled Lyons out for being skilled at getting the IV into the boy so quickly and effectively, but also praised the Falcon Troop Medical Clinic’s staff for reacting so quickly.

“The team did a real good job,” he said. “Everyone was concerned; to see someone so young in that kind of condition was something that pulled us all together. It looks like he’s going to be OK.”

Faisal and his mother were then flown to a combat support hospital, where he received further treatment and is expected to make a full recovery.

### Arabic Phrase of the Day

*rahman*

**Defined:**  
**compassionate**

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 113  
Low: 81



Tomorrow

High: 113  
Low: 81



Saturday

High: 113  
Low: 83

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(Photo by Sgt. Mike Pryor, 2-82 Abn. Div. Public Affairs.)

## Future of Iraq Stands Tall

An Iraqi soldier with 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, pulls security while conducting a cordon and knock operation in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District June 18.

## Soldiers Reveal Compassion in Combat, Save Mistreated Boys

Rescued  
From Page 1

children to temporarily stay at the orphanage in Atafiyah, hiring ten additional workers to care for the boys. The Neighborhood Advisory Council vowed to take action and ensure the boys were properly cared for.

"We're very grateful that this story unfolded the way that it did, that none of these 24 boys lost their lives. This is a story of partnership, courageous action and compassion

overcoming deplorable negligence," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Multi-National Division –Baghdad deputy commanding general.

"The role of the Iraqi Soldiers and the community council was a key to this action being taken to save these young boys," Brooks said. "We're very fortunate to have the kind of Soldiers we have who are willing to take action, even at personal risk to save the lives of others. These Soldiers in a literal and figurative sense are the best chance for Iraq, just as they were for these boys."



(Photo by Navy Lieutenant James Cook, 492nd Civil Affairs)

Staff Sgt. Kyle Richey, of State College, Pa., cares for one of the 24 starving boys in the back of an Iraqi Army ambulance. Civic leaders escorted the boys to the Iskan Hospital for medical treatment.

### Safety Message of the Day

Planning + Practicing =

***Preparedness***



# Troops Use More than Body Armor to Keep Safe

**By Spc. Alexis Harrison**  
**2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

BAGHDAD – For many of the Soldiers in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, the current 15-month tour in Iraq isn't their first. For the rest of the Soldiers in the Black Jack Brigade, having well-seasoned leaders can make all the difference.

While out on the streets every day, Soldiers from Troop B, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, rely on much more than just the individual body armor systems they wear. They depend on each other to make it through daily situations and even the entire deployment.

Staff Sgt. Angus Robinson from Copperas Cove, Texas, is on his third tour in Iraq. In 2004, he was with the 4th Infantry Division during the initial invasion. Six months later he was reassigned to the 1st Infantry Division to complete his second combat tour.

Although he was a truck gunner for the majority of his first two tours, he was still a noncommissioned officer who had to look out for what mattered most to him in a time of war: his Soldiers.

"Before, we had to fight through many places, not necessarily on a daily basis, but it was a regular thing," he said. "It was an eye-opening experience. It showed me the levels of responsibility you take on for your Soldiers are much different in combat than in a garrison environment."

For Robinson, the trips to Baquba and Adilayah were his first experience in combat. He would soon after find himself getting promoted to staff sergeant and getting assigned to

the 1st Cavalry Division where he knew he'd once again have to lead Soldiers in a combat environment.

Through several trips to a combat zone, Robinson developed his own techniques of leadership. He borrowed a little from his past NCOs, a little from his experiences and a little from himself to become the leader he is today.

Sgt. Patrick Trujillo also has his share of combat experience. He served in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Polk, La., during its trip to Iraq a few years ago. The Copperas Cove native is now an NCO with 2nd Platoon, Troop B "Night Stalkers."

His leadership techniques are similar to those of Robinsons in the sense that he's taken a lot from his past leaders and he tries to give his Soldiers as much respect as he can.

He believes the more you show your Soldiers what it takes to be respected the more they'll respect him. He doesn't do it through punishments or lucrative awards.

"Lead by example," he said. "I always learned more from leaders who didn't mind getting their hands dirty."

More recently, Robinson was again reassigned. This time he didn't have to go as far as last time. He moved from one platoon to another within the "Black Hawk" Troop.

Not skipping a beat, Robinson was out on the streets with his team. The area where they patrol in Karkh used to be one of the worst in Baghdad. Robinson credits the hard work by leaders and his fellow Bradley tank crews for cleaning up the neighborhood.

Both Robinson and



(Photos by Spc. Alexis Harrison, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

**Chicago native Staff Sgt. Michael Jenkins, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, hands out cards with numbers to call in case of an emergency or to give tips on suspicious activity to Iraqi men waiting outside a post office in Baghdad's Karkh District June 7.**

Trujillo remarked on how quickly the businesses, traffic and people came back to the area after a few months of being not much more than a ghost town where bodies were being found almost daily.

One more thing the two NCOs agreed upon was the satisfaction of seeing their Soldiers thrive and find success in combat.

"When I see my 'Joes' grow into larger roles, it gives me a satisfied feeling," Robinson said.

With a rather large grin on his face, Trujillo spouts: "It's a warm, fuzzy feeling."

Robinson said with leadership comes a lot more than giving orders. Besides patrolling a small area north of the International Zone, many responsibilities lie right on the base.

Keeping up with vehicle and weapon maintenance, personal and personnel issues and training are just some of the things Robinson and Trujillo have to keep their Soldiers up to date on.

Robinson said as trivial as

it might seem to the untrained eye, every step of the process every day helps mold young Soldiers into leaders and leaders into better leaders.

"In order to see [Soldiers] grow as individuals and leaders, you have to give them a sense of ownership. You have to allow them to take responsibility to the next level."

Robinson remarked that several of his Soldiers are itching for action.

One such Soldier is Spc. Ashley Hall. The Ardmore, Ala., native says that many of the challenges they face boil down to something much more simple than expected.

He said that being out in sector isn't necessarily the toughest part of the job. The true challenge lies in what's expected of him on a daily basis. Trujillo feels the same way.

"It's a big challenge having guys' lives in your hands," he said. "It's kind of scary but kind of satisfying in the same sense."



**Fourth of July Concert****'Haifa Street Project' Set to Rock, Rattle, Roll**

**By Sgt. Robert Yde**  
**2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs**

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq – When most Soldiers with the 2nd “Black Jack” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division hear the name, “Haifa Street Project,” the first thing that probably comes to mind is the brigade’s ongoing work to restore the former battleground in Baghdad’s city center. However, within the brigade there is another Haifa Street Project that has recently begun and is hoping to make a name for itself.

“We were just sitting around and somebody said, ‘Haifa Street Project,’ and it was just like, that’s perfect,” Capt. Jason Lewis, the brigade’s civil affairs officer said.

Lewis and four other Soldiers have recently formed a band and adopted the civic project’s name as their own.

“We have an ongoing Haifa Street Project in the Karkh District right now that’s a really big deal,” the Santa Barbara, Calif. native explained. “We just felt like that’s a project, and we’re a project; they’re growing, we’re growing, and so we named the band that.

“Plus we get dual publicity,” he added. “Our own and every time somebody mentions Haifa Street, you don’t know if they’re talking about the band or the street project in Karkh.”

The original idea to form a band while in Baghdad started back at Fort Hood, Texas with guitarist, 2nd Lt. J.P. Hare who is with Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment and lead singer, Capt. Patrick Miller who is with the 5-6th Military Transition Team. At the time, both Soldiers were with the 15th Brigade Support Battalion.

“At the last second I got thrown onto the MiTT at Prosperity while [Hare] was at Falcon,” explained Miller, a Buffalo, N.Y., native. “So, it never really came to fruition.”

While at FOB Falcon, Hare started playing with two other Soldiers: bassist, Spc. Stephanie Gould who was also with the 15th BSB, and drummer, Spc. Zak Deckard, who was with one of the Black



(Photo by Sgt. Robert Yde, 2-1 Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

**Guitarist, 2nd Lt. J.P. Hare from Oakland, Calif., and bassist, Spc. Stephanie Gould from Naples, Fla., both members of the ‘Haifa Street Project,’ practice at the FOB Prosperity Chapel June 8.**

Jack Brigade’s attached units, 1st Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment. In March, they relocated to the International Zone, and Hare and Miller were able to pick up with their original plan of forming a band.

“We ended up coming here to Prosperity, and we were all able to come back together with Capt. Miller and Capt. Lewis, and now we’re ready to rock the IZ,” Naples, Fla., native Gould said.

“J.P.’s been in numerous bands in California, and I’ve been in a few bands,” Miller said. “The last time I was deployed to Iraq I was in a band, and we toured around the Green Zone. It’s just something we love doing.”

For Lewis, however, this is his first stint in a band, and he said that he’s enjoyed the experience.

“It’s awesome. I love music,” he said. “I did play in one of the church

services, but it’s a little different flavor now – a little different music. It’s very loud, and I’m kind of an older guy, so if I lose my hearing, then, oh well, it’s for a good purpose.”

Since forming about a month ago, the Haifa Street Project tries to practice about 10 hours a week.

“We’re very passionate toward what we’re doing because it’s very time consuming,” Miller said. “We work on top of this, too. So it’s hard to find the time to come here to the chapel at a reasonable hour and not wake people up. You’ve really got to want to do it.”

Although it can be difficult for all five Soldiers to find the time, Lewis said that the time he is able to spend playing music is worth it.

“You just blow off steam,” Lewis said. “All we do is work and focus on military activities and operations and missions. That’s our primary job over here, but if I can get an hour to blow off some steam and play with the guys then I love doing that.”

The band hopes to help other Soldiers blow off some steam on the 4th of July when the Haifa Street Project makes their debut with an outdoor concert at Prosperity.

“It’s going to rock,” Gould said of their upcoming concert.

The music is primarily mainstream alternative, which all the band members, with the exception of Lewis, said is what they listen to.

“That’s all them,” Lewis said. “If I had my choice we’d be playing all Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd, but I couldn’t even get the Bee Gees in there. I’ve got to go with the band, though.”

Along with practicing several times a week for their upcoming concert, the band has been busy advertising their concert by printing and posting up flyers all over the International Zone.

“There’s a lot of time, money and effort going into it, and we’ve got a lot of people supporting it,” Miller said. “I have no idea what to expect, but whether it’s 700 people or it’s 30 people, we’re going to play the same. It’s going to be a good show.”